

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 247513

45

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 DODE-00 H-03 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 /032 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:PWKRIEBEL:LM

APPROVED BY EA/K:DLRANARD

L/EA - CROH

DA/OTJAG - WASOLF (SUBSTANCE)

H -JAHERNE

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R 192300Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 247513

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, KS

SUBJECT: SOFA: CASE OF SGG JOHN W. BLOUNT

1. WE HAVE HAD INQUIRY FROM CONGRESSMAN WALDIE REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY IN CASE OF SSG BLOUNT. SIMILAR LETTER WENT TO THE ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL. IN DISCUSSION WITH CONGRESSMAN'S OFFICE IT WAS SUGGESTED AND ACCEPTED THAT MR. WALDIE MAKE HIS INTEREST KNOWN TO DEPARTING ROK AMBASSADOR KIM DONG JO WHO HAD BEEN NEWLY APPOINTED AS FOREIGN MINISTER. INTERIM REPLY TO CONGRESSMAN STATED THAT EMBASSY WOULD BE ASKED ABOUT REPORTS OF POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY BEARING IN MIND THAT MINISTER OF JUSTICE HAD BEEN CHANGED IN DECEMBER CABINET SHIFT.

2. ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE'S OFFICE HAS REPLIED TO CONGRESSMAN WALDIE ON BASIS OF CONVERSATION 26 NOVEMBER WITH THEN MINISTER OF JUSTICE SHIN AND EIGHTH ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE OFFICE IN SEOUL. IN SUBSTANCE LETTER STATES THAT ROKG HAS INFORMALLY INDICATED BLOUNT CASE WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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REVIEWED AT AN APPROPRIATE OCCASION, I.E., AN IMPORTANT

KOREAN NATIONAL HOLIDAY. LETTER DID NOT SUGGEST ROKG
HAD MADE OR IMPLIED A COMMITMENT TO GRANT CLEMENCY.

3. RECOGNIZING THAT POSSIBILITY OF EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY IS
SENSITIVE POLITICAL MATTER, WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S
VIEW AS TO DEPARTMENT'S REPLY TO CONGRESSMAN WALDIE. WE
CAN USE SUBSTANCE OF JUDGE ADVOCATE'S LETTER IN OUR OWN
REPLY IF IN EMBASSY JUDGMENT THIS REMAINS BEST
INFORMATION AVAILABLE. RUSH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE247513
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PWKRIEBEL:LM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731215/aaaaakos.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Feb-2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOFA: CASE OF SGG JOHN W. BLOUNT
TAGS: MARR, KS
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005